

## Issue 21 October 26, 2007

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### Items of Interest:

**October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.** For over 20 years, women and men have been educating themselves about early breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment. Though breast cancer is usually detected and diagnosed in women over the age of 40, breast cancer can affect both women and men, sometimes at a very early age (20's). One of the ways to check your breast health is a monthly self breast exam. Mammograms are the best line of defense in the early detection of breast cancer. If you suspect that you may have breast cancer, you should contact your physician immediately. For more information on breast cancer, visit <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/breast>

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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## NMC San Diego Hosts Grand Opening of New C5 Facility

From Naval Medical Center San Diego Public Affairs Office

**SAN DIEGO**—Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS) continues to ensure that injured service members and their families have the highest priority and top quality support during recovery, rehabilitation, and transition. NMCS will celebrate the grand opening of the new Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) facility Monday morning, Oct. 15, 2007.

C5 is a program of care that manages severely injured or ill patients from medical evacuation through in patient care, out patient rehabilitation, and eventual return to active duty or transition from the military. The new 30,000-square-foot, \$4.4 million facility incorporates new state-of-the-art technologies that improve prosthetic and rehabilitation services.

"This facility represents the

Medical Center's commitment to providing quality care and support to recovering service members and their families," said Rear Adm. Christine S. Hunter, Commander, and Navy Medicine West & NMCS. "The C5 program is at the forefront of wounded warrior care and our health care team is inspired every day by the courage, energy, and determination of the patients we serve."

The newly-renovated facility features a 3,500-square-foot multi-terrain obstacle course, a 30-foot climbing wall, and a technologically advanced training apartment complete with a fully functioning kitchen, bedroom, living room, and bathroom. Also included are a state-of-the-art accurate motion capture system and an advanced bionic technology room for use in gait analysis, adjustment and re-training.



**SAN DIEGO** - Air Force Capt. David K. Berling performs abdominal training with a medicine ball during routine therapy in the new Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) at Naval Medical Center San Diego Oct. 15. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Greg Mitchell

## **Admiral's Call by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Adam. M. Robinson, Jr.**

In my first several week since taking the helm on 27 August I have had the opportunity to witness, first hand, the high quality, compassionate care that Navy medicine is avidly delivering throughout the nation and throughout the world.

In 5 October I visited Great Lakes, IL, for the naming ceremony for the CAPT James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, the nation's first joint Veterans Affairs-Navy hospital when it opens in 2010. The Lovell Center will serve an estimated 100,000 veterans, active duty personnel, and family members and has already established collaborative processes, which can be exported to other locations and in turn shape the future of federal healthcare.

This partnership represents Force Health Protection in action. From the seaman recruits in Great Lakes who are getting trained, mentored, and anchored in our sea service culture, to those who have returned from serving operational assignments including war, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, this integration allows us to maintain a continuum of care and a career path for the full military life experience.

On 15 October I visited Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) for the opening ceremony of the Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) facility. C5 is a state-of-the-art facility that manages a severely injured or ill patient from medical evacuation through inpatient care, outpatient rehabilitation, and eventual return to active duty or transition from the military. The center provides patients and families with an all-encompassing treatment and services for physical injuries, emotional needs, and rehabilitation.

This newly renovated facility features a multi-terrain obstacle course which contains ramps, stairs, and beams that allows a patient to work on ambulation and balance; a 30-foot climbing wall

that enables work on agility, problem solving and muscle strengthening, and an advanced training apartment with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom which gives patients the opportunity to practice tasks in an environment that they will encounter upon discharge.

Similar to the Military Amputee Training Center that just opened in September at Walter Reed, both share the same case management model that facilitates healing for our wounded Marines, soldiers, sailors, airmen and coastguardsmen. C5 is also strategically important in our concept of family centered care because approximately 25 percent of all wounded warriors call the west coast home. Patients can be brought directly to San Diego from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany or shortly after initial treatment at Bethesda or Walter Reed, allowing families to be closer together and obtain access to essential support services which improves the total healing process.

These warriors deserve our best, and it is our calling and duty to give them the best medical care and rehabilitation support possible. In fact, as part of force health protection, Navy medicine is committed to a stellar standard and quality of care for all of our beneficiaries. This high quality patient care is reserved not only to those who are active duty, or warwounded; but all beneficiaries, those closest to them as well as those in foreign countries who are in dire need.

Navy medicine is also proud to welcome home the joint civil-military crew of both USS *Peleliu* (LHA-5) and USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 19). *Comfort* completed its 120-day, 12-country mission in Latin America and Caribbean, conducting nearly 1200 surgeries and treating more than 98,000 patients. Likewise, *Peleliu* modeled her deployment on USNS *Mercy's* highly-successful 2006 Southeast Asia and Westpac deployment, delivering substantial medical and dental support to a significant number of peo-



ple in remote locations onboard a large-deck amphibious ship demonstrating the Navy's commitment, flexibility, and multi-purpose capability.

Thousands of patients in SOUTHCOM and PACOM area of responsibilities (AOR) benefited from high-quality, immediate healthcare delivered by dedicated, caring teams of professionals. Meanwhile, the crew of both ships worked hand-in-hand with their host nation counterparts. Together they played a critical role as goodwill ambassadors, demonstrating that beyond the kinetic energy of a mighty warship like *Peleliu* lies the equally compelling compassionate soft power of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Congratulations to both our joint, multi-agency and multi-national teams from Pacific Partnership and Partnership for the Americas.

Quality care is not a stagnant phenomenon. The concept of quality is dynamic and satisfies the ever-changing needs, desires and wishes of our patients, their families, and our staff who provide that care. Navy medicine never rests on its past accomplishments. We are obligated to provide the best, most comprehensive quality care to all of our patients because this is our pledge as health care professionals, military professionals and citizens of this great nation.

## Major Drill Tests Military, Federal and Civilian Regional Resources

From National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

**BETHESDA, Md.** - The Bethesda Hospitals' Emergency Preparedness Partnership hosted its largest collaborative multi-agency medical exercise Oct. 18, at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC).

Leadership from the partnership facilities that include NNMC, the Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Suburban Hospital said the goal of the drill is to test the regional disaster response program and strengthen relationships. They feel confident the partnership is prepared.

"Our nation continues to be susceptible to disasters, pandemics and acts of terrorism," National Naval Medical Center Commander Rear Adm. Richard Jeffries said. "The partnerships' Regional Disaster Response Model demonstrates that readiness is a foundation upon which will [and] can provide - and maintain - the highest quality of military-civilian emergency response and health care our communities have come to expect after Katrina. Now is the time for all our communities to implement strategies and enhance relationships for effective disaster response."

More than 5,000 people will take part in this year's drill, including participants from National Naval Medical Center; NIH Clinical Center; Suburban Hospital; Joint

Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region; Air Force District of Washington; DC National Guard; Delaware Air National Guard; Walter Reed Army Medical Center; and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service. The partnership is also welcoming its newest member, the National Library of Medicine.

"The Bethesda Hospitals' Emergency Preparedness Partnership stands ready to provide a rapid and sustained medical response to our community during a catastrophic event in the National Capital Region," said Brian Gragnoli, Suburban Hospital Health care system president and chief executive officer.

This partnership is a first-of-its-kind collaboration that links military, federal, local and private mass disaster medical response efforts within the national capital area. Started in 2004 and formalized in 2005, the partnership is now a model for other health care agencies throughout the country.

"The Bethesda Partnership has developed a transportable model for defining best practices in casualty care management through ongoing collaboration, integration, and training," said Dr. John Gallin, director of the NIH Clinical Center. "We encourage other health care organizations to partner with their neighbors. Forming these relationships helps grow community outreach and improve disaster preparedness."

## Navy Corpsman to be Awarded the Silver Star

From Naval Health Clinic New England Public Affairs Office

**NEWPORT, RI** - A ceremony is scheduled to take place at 2:00 p.m., Oct. 22, in the House of Representatives Chambers of the Rhode Island State house to officially award the Silver Star Medal to Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Joshua T. Chiarini for gallantry in action.

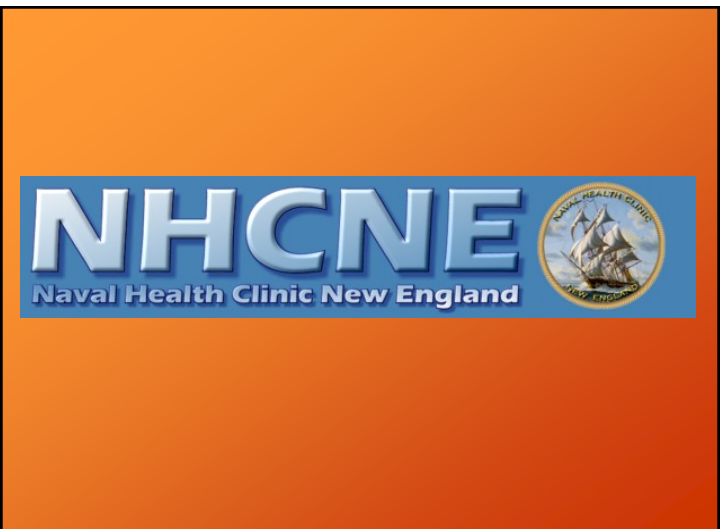
As a hospital corpsman assigned to 1st Platoon, Battery G, Battalion Landing Team 1/2, 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), Special Operations Capable (SOC), 2nd Marine Division, 88 Marine Expeditionary Force (forward), Chiarini was recognized for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy in Al Anbar Province, Iraq on Feb. 10, 2006. Chiarini has had three deployments to Iraq.

Chiarini, currently assigned to Naval Health Clinic New England - Newport, was born and raised in Coventry, R.I. He graduated from Coventry High School in June, 2000 and joined the Navy in September 2000.

Chiarini attended boot camp at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes where he remained for follow-on training at the Naval Hospital Corps School graduating in April, 2001. His first assignment as a corpsman was at Naval Hospital, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. where he was assigned in support of the School of Infantry at Camp Geiger. After leaving the naval hospital, he attended Field Medical Service School at Camp Johnson,

N.C. graduating in September 2001. He deployed to Joint Task Force 160, Guantanamo Bay from January 2002 until June 2002 and was transferred to 2nd Marine Division in July, 2002.

His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device (Valor); the Combat Action Ribbon; the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medal.





## CNO, MCPON Greet Crew of USNS Comfort

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Tyler Jones,  
USNS Comfort Public Affairs

**MIAMI** - Recently appointed Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead, flanked by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe Campa Jr., boarded hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) off the coast of Miami Oct. 12 for a celebratory visit as the ship steamed home.

Comfort is returning home after treating more than 98,000 patients during their four-month humanitarian assistance training deployment in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the same time, Roughead and the crew celebrated the Navy's 232nd birthday.

The CNO spoke candidly about Comfort's mission and accomplishments. Roughead told the crew their mission helped to foster good will and understanding between the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Roughead assured crew members that their hard work and dedication would be remembered in years to come, both in the U.S. and the twelve countries with which the ship partnered.

During the ceremony, the crew's citation for the Meritorious Unit Commendation for meritorious service from June 17 to Oct. 12 was read.

"Together, personnel from the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Public Health Service, as well as foreign units



U.S. Navy file photo.

and non-governmental organizations, exceeded all expectations, including those of the president, by providing unparalleled care to more than 90,000 patients," the citation read in part.

After the ceremony, the crew celebrated the Navy's 232nd birthday with a cake cutting ceremony and remarks from Campa.

"On our Navy's birthday, I think it's appropriate to be out here on a ship, celebrating the success of a very high-impact deployment," Campa said. "It's an honor

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## Nurses Aboard Hospital Ship Achieve SWMDO Qualification

By Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Elizabeth R. Allen, USNS  
Comfort Public Affairs

**ATLANTIC OCEAN** - Twenty one Nurse Corps officers, 13 Medical Service Corps officers, one Medical Corps officer and one U.S. Air Force nurse aboard hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) received their Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer (SWMDO) qualification insignia during the first two weeks of October.

The SWMDO qualification, similar to the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualification, is made up of 25 areas covering subject matter from basic seamanship to management of a Medical Department. The pin is earned after successful completion of all prerequisites and an oral board, usually lasting from one to two hours.

"The main reason I participated in this program was to enhance my career," said Ensign Mark Bueno, a recently qualified SWMDO officer. "It will benefit my medical career as

well as my Navy career, and I was interested in learning about the ship."

During Comfort's four-month deployment, working on the qualification has not been easy. The officers studying for this qualification found it challenging to find time in their busy schedule.

"We worked 12-to-13-hour shifts, attended an hour-long class after that, then stayed up and studied," Bueno said. "We also found time to study between ports during transit. My motivation was the idea of receiving the pin and the satisfaction of completing the program. Having this qualification separates me from my peers who do not have this, and shows the sacrifice of long hours of study while on a fast-paced deployment."

Education, training and mentorship aided in the success of the program, influencing the outcome of all who participated in it.

"I look back with amazement on how much knowledge they obtained, how aggressive they at-

tacked this qualification, how they all worked together as a team and how excited and eager they were to learn about our Navy," said Lt. Daniel Uhler, officer in charge of the SWMDO program aboard Comfort. "Most importantly, they all realize that their learning does not stop with this qualification."

The SWMDO qualification allows medical officers the unique opportunity to leave their comfort zone and expand professional boundaries. They can also better understand what others are doing for them out at sea just as they are respected for the daily compassion they provide to countless patients, Uhler said.

"This is a significant achievement in their naval careers, and I would like to congratulate and wish them the very best for their future success," he said. "They will represent our Navy and their Corps with the utmost pride and professionalism. I am proud to call them Surface Warriors!"

## San Diego Community Support Provided at NMCS D

By Mass Communications Specialist  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class (AW) Greg Mitchell, Naval  
Medical Center San Diego Public  
Affairs

**SAN DIEGO** - Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) is doing its part to reach out and assist the San Diego community coping with wildfires that have burned more than 240,000 acres in San Diego County resulting in 513,000 displaced residents. On Oct. 21, 11 major fires developed due to Santa Ana conditions of high winds and low humidity. An Emergency Operations Center was established Oct. 22 at NMCS D to coordinate medical efforts for military personnel, family members and ultimately civilians from other hospitals evacuated in the area.

Over the past two days, NMCS D has accepted 38 civilian patients, transferred due to civilian hospital closures and evacuations. Overnight, NMCS D responded to county medical operation requests to care for 28 nursing home patients from Villa Rancho Bernardo. These residents were initially evacuated to Del Mar which was secondarily evacuated when that zone was overcome by smoke. NMCS D converted a minimally equipped ward into a fully operational and staffed unit within three hours of notifica-

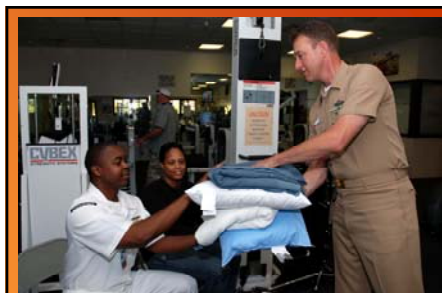
tion. Naval Hospital Twenty-nine Palms provided 16 staff members to supplement the care of the nursing home patients.

Additionally, NMCS D has accepted 10 patients from Pomerado Hospital in Escondido and is currently providing housing for 33 staff and families at the hospital. Among these, Personnelman 1st Class (SW/AW) William Clincy, the Command Urinalysis Coordinator, and his wife Iris were directed to evacuate their home and spent the night at the hospital.

"The service here has been outstanding," said Clincy. "There is plenty of space, the food was great and we were supplied with a large screen TV set that gave us the opportunity to keep up with the latest conditions surrounding our home. I had the feeling of being a part of a family and everyone was in this together."

"People came here for help and we simply provided for them," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF/NAC) Trevor Dallas-Orr, Special Projects Officer for the Command Master Chief, who oversaw the temporary evacuation site.

Other examples of NMCS D contributing to the community include: primary care and preventative medicine services at seven loca-



**NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO** - Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief (FMF/NAC) Trevor Dallas-Orr, Naval Medical Center San Diego Special Projects Officer for the Command Master Chief, hands blankets and pillows to Personnel Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) William Clincy and his wife Iris during their stay at the temporary evacuation site. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Greg Mitchell*

tions for an estimated 2,601 displaced personnel, replenished medical supplies for dozens of people who evacuated their homes without the necessary medications, 89 persons are being supported on board NMCS D, a donation of 12 wheelchairs to Qualcomm Stadium Shelter and 11 Wounded Warriors who volunteered and participated by handing out hot lunches at the same location.

## Comfort continued...

(Continued from page 4)

and a privilege for us to be here and interact with Sailors who have

left the kind of impression that will be felt for years."

Campa shook hands and spoke one-on-one with Sailors, congratulating them on their outstanding achievements over the past four months and 12 countries.

This was Comfort's first large-scale humanitarian mission and served as a training and development exercise to help military and civilian medical professionals learn about humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations. Though it was the first such mission for Comfort, Roughead alluded that it will not be the last, saying that the ship may

deploy again in 2009 on a similar mission.

Comfort's deployment carried her to Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname.

Comfort will arrive at Naval Station Norfolk Oct. 16 where much of the crew will debark. The remaining crew members will debark in Baltimore Oct. 19, where the ship is layberthed.



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